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FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6774  
INFO AMCONSUL SHANGHAI  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
AMCONSUL SHENYANG  
AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
AIT TAIPEI 8872  
AMCONSUL CHENGDU

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BEIJING 018771

E.O. 12958: DECL: 1.6X6  
TAGS: PGOV PREL US CH TW  
SUBJECT: VFM YANG JIECHI PROTESTS U.S. ACTIONS ON TAIWAN  
AND TIBET

REF: BEIJING 18141

(U) CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR JAMES R. SASSER. REASON:  
1.5(B) AND (D). EXEMPTION: 1.6X6.

SUMMARY

¶1. (C) VFM YANG JIECHI CALLED IN THE AMBASSADOR NOVEMBER 12 TO PROTEST SECRETARY RICHARDSON'S VISIT TO TAIWAN AND THE DALAI LAMA'S WASHINGTON MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT CLINTON AND OTHER SENIOR U.S. OFFICIALS. YANG DESCRIBED BOTH ACTIONS AS "CATEGORICALLY UNACCEPTABLE" AND INTERFERENCE IN CHINA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. YANG ACCUSED THE DALAI LAMA OF USING HIS U.S. VISIT TO DISGUISE EFFORTS AIMED AT PROMOTING TIBETAN INDEPENDENCE. YANG WARNED AGAINST UNDERESTIMATING THE SENSITIVITY OF THE TAIWAN AND TIBET ISSUES AND SAID IT WAS IN OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS TO KEEP BILATERAL RELATIONS IN "GOOD SHAPE."  
END SUMMARY.

¶2. (C) VFM YANG JIECHI CALLED IN THE AMBASSADOR NOVEMBER 12 TO REGISTER PROTESTS REGARDING SECRETARY RICHARDSON'S VISIT TO TAIWAN AND THE DALAI LAMA'S WASHINGTON MEETINGS WITH THE PRESIDENT AND OTHER SENIOR U.S. OFFICIALS. (YANG ORIGINALLY ASKED TO SEE THE AMBASSADOR ON NOVEMBER 11, BUT A MEETING COULD NOT BE ARRANGED. MFA, HOWEVER, WAS DETERMINED TO REGISTER ITS PROTEST THAT DAY AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL CHEN MINGMING DID SO THAT EVENING WITH THE ACTING DCM.)

"SERIOUS CONCERN AND STRONG RESENTMENT"

¶3. (C) YANG COMPLAINED THAT, BY SENDING SECRETARY RICHARDSON TO TAIWAN AND ALLOWING THE DALAI LAMA TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES, THE U.S. HAD DISREGARDED CHINA'S OPPOSITION AND REPRESENTATIONS (REFTEL). YANG EXPRESSED CHINA'S "SERIOUS CONCERN AND STRONG RESENTMENT AT THESE WRONG ACTIONS." HE ADDED THAT HE HAD BEEN "INSTRUCTED TO MAKE A PROTEST" WHICH HE HOPED THE AMBASSADOR WOULD REPORT IMMEDIATELY TO WASHINGTON.

TAIWAN: VIOLATION OF THREE COMMUNIQUES

¶4. (C) ON TAIWAN, YANG RESTATED CHINA'S OPPOSITION TO ANY OFFICIAL CONTACT OR DEVELOPMENT OF OFFICIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND TAIWAN, ESPECIALLY CABINET-LEVEL VISITS. YANG "DEMANDED" THAT THE UNITED STATES LIMIT ITS RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN TO UNOFFICIAL TIES. YANG PROTESTED SECRETARY RICHARDSON'S VISIT, HIS MEETINGS WITH LEE TENG-HUI AND OTHER SENIOR TAIWAN OFFICIALS, AND RICHARDSON'S "OUTRAGEOUS REMARKS ON MANY OCCASIONS." THIS WAS A VIOLATION OF THE THREE COMMUNIQUES AND THE U.S. COMMITMENT NOT TO HAVE OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN.

TIBET: SUPPORT FOR SEPARATISM

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15. (C) ON TIBET, YANG DESCRIBED THE DALAI LAMA AS A "POLITICAL EXILE ENGAGED IN SPLITISM WHO ADVOCATED TIBETAN INDEPENDENCE." YANG SAID THE DALAI LAMA WAS USING THE PROSPECT OF CONTACTS AND NEGOTIATIONS WITH BEIJING TO CARRY OUT "PROPAGANDA" AND TO DISGUISE HIS "DECEPTIVE TRICKS." ACCORDING TO YANG, THE U.S. WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT THE DALAI LAMA'S VISIT AND TO ARRANGE MEETINGS WITH THE PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY OF STATE, AMOUNTED TO "FLAGRANT CONNIVANCE AND SUPPORT FOR THE DALAI LAMA'S SPLITIST ACTIVITIES." THIS WAS A VIOLATION OF U.S. STATEMENTS THAT IT RECOGNIZED TIBET AS PART OF CHINA AND DID NOT SUPPORT INDEPENDENCE FOR TIBET, YANG ALLEGED.

YANG SAYS U.S. SHOULD "CORRECT ITS MISTAKES"

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16. (C) SUMMING UP, YANG SAID THAT THE U.S. ACTIONS CONTRAVENED INTERNATIONAL PRINCIPLES OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS, MUTUAL RESPECT FOR TERRITORIAL SOVEREIGNTY AND INTEGRITY, AND "HURT THE FEELINGS" OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE. HE VOICED "STRONG OPPOSITION" TO THE "CATEGORICALLY UNACCEPTABLE" U.S. ACTIONS. YANG SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD NOT INTERFERE IN OR ENTRENCH UPON CHINA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. HE "DEMANDED" THAT THE UNITED STATES ABIDE STRICTLY BY THE THREE COMMUNIQUES AND THE BASIC PRINCIPLES GOVERNING INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. YANG CLOSED BY CALLING ON THE UNITED STATES TO "CORRECT ITS MISTAKES" AND FURTHER IMPROVE U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS WITH CONCRETE ACTIONS. ADDING A "PERSONAL THOUGHT," HE STRESSED THE SENSITIVITY OF TAIWAN AND TIBET TO BEIJING AND CAUTIONED US AGAINST MAKING "WRONG CALCULATIONS" AND NOT "REPEAT PAST MISTAKES." IT WAS IN OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS, YANG SAID, TO KEEP THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP IN "GOOD SHAPE."

17. (C) THE AMBASSADOR ASSURED VFM YANG THAT CHINA'S VIEWS WOULD PROMPTLY BE REPORTED TO WASHINGTON.

18. (C) VFM YANG TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY OF A SUBSEQUENT MEETING NOVEMBER 12 WITH U/S HOLUM (SEPTEL) TO SIMILARLY PROTEST THE DALAI LAMA AND RICHARDSON VISITS.

COMMENT

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19. (C) AS WAS THE CASE WHEN WE RECEIVED OUR LAST PROTEST FROM YANG ONLY TWO WEEKS AGO (REFTEL), HIS PRESENTATION TODAY WAS STRAIGHTFORWARD AND FREE OF EMOTION. THE MEETING HAD THE ADDED VIRTUE OF BREVITY, AS YANG WENT THROUGH HIS POINTS IN ABOUT FIFTEEN MINUTES. THIS IS NOT TO DOWNPLAY, HOWEVER, BEIJING'S UNHAPPINESS WITH THESE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS. MFA DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL CHEN MINGMING TOLD ACTING DCM NOVEMBER 11 THAT SERIOUS CONSIDERATION HAD BEEN GIVEN TO CANCELING U/S HOLUM'S ON-GOING BEIJING TALKS TO DEMONSTRATE BEIJING'S DISPLEASURE. ACCORDING TO CHEN, THIS OPTION WAS REJECTED AS THE AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIVISION CONVINCINGLY ARGUED THAT STOPPING THE TALKS WOULD DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD.

SASSER